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Bethel Historical Society



Mill Brook, ca 1900

HIGHLIGHTS OF MILL HILL HISTORY

By Mary C. Keniston

Editor's Note: A version of this article was presented at the April 1987 monthly meeting of the Bethel Historical Society by the author, who is grateful for all those who shared information, photographs and/or memories.

The origins of Mill Hill extend back to the 1770s when Eleazer Twitchell (1744-1818) built a saw mill on Mill Brook close to the present Mill Brook bridge, soon to be followed by a grist mill also near this bridge. By 1779 a frame house stood on the island in Mill Brook created by a split in the stream to the north of the grist mill. This structure was apparently built to house mill workers, and in later years the family of Eleazer Twitchell. These enterprises were typical of many New England towns of the period providing basic requirements for settlement, mechanized systems for grinding flour and cornmeal as well as sawing lumber. Waterpower was essential to these activities, and it was its presence here that determined the location of the first settlement of the West Parish section of what would become Bethel.

Twitchell, from all available evidence, appears to have been the typical "jolly miller" with his mills serving as the heart of this tiny first settlement. The success of waterpowered mills at this time depended on the mechanical ability of the millwright, and much trial and error went into each operation. The

Twitchell grist mill was operated at first on a self-service basis. Since the large undershot wheel was insufficiently supplied with water by Mill Brook in summer, residents of those early days often resorted to grinding grain by hand. In 1781, the same year of New England's last Indian raid, which occurred at Sudbury Canada (Bethel's early name) on August 3, improvements were made at the mill with the installation of a water wheel requiring less water to operate. Samuel Reddington of Augusta was hired to take charge of the renovation. In 1789, Twitchell gained title to the mills from his father, and eight years later, further refinements in the form of a tub wheel were introduced. Millers at this time were paid in barter, money or toll, the last being a percentage of the grain ground. It is reasonable to assume that the improvements in the Twitchell mills were made after financial success in both mills and accompanying lumbering operations had been realized.

After Twitchell's death, the ownership of the family mills passed to others. The sawmill was successfully owned by James Walker II (1791-1866) (later to give his name to the settlement at South Bethel) and John Harris (1793-1875). Although the first carding operation was apparently connected with the Twitchell grist mill, Eleazer's son Joseph and others built a carding and clothing mill at the site of the Twitchell saw mill. Moses Cross (1807-1883), a veteran of the wool carding

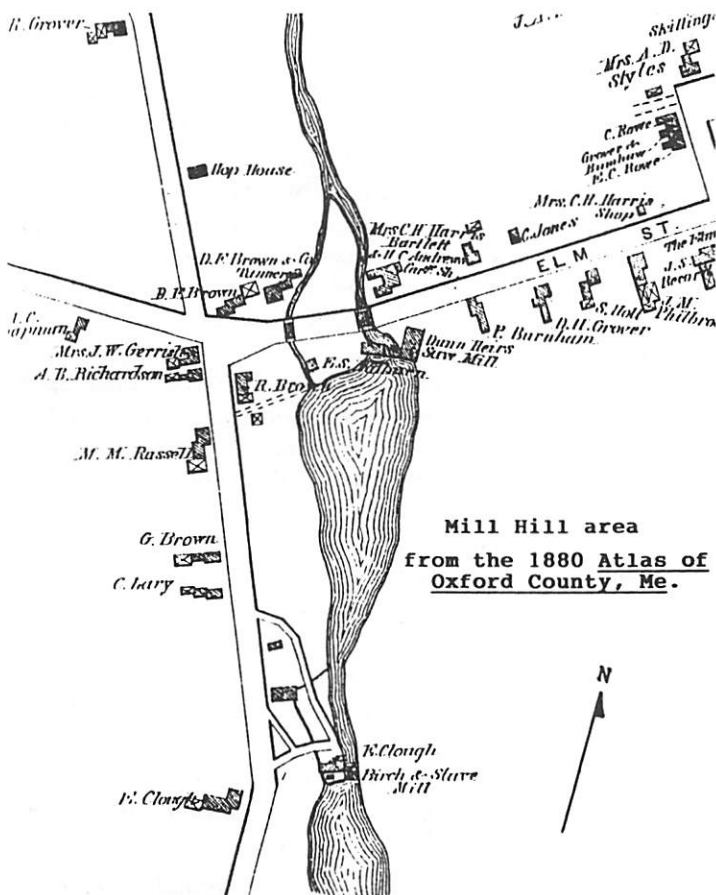
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(Mill Hill, continued from page 1)

and fulling trade at Rumford Falls, brought his experience to Bethel and took over the wool processing mill. The carding and fulling process carried out at Mill Hill represented a transitional step between the production of cloth totally within the home and the complete mechanization of the process with the introduction of the factory system and store-bought cloth. The Twitchell grist mill at the site of the present Mill Hill bridge was acquired by Jesse Cross (1778-1862), son-in-law of Eleazer, and later passed through various hands and was converted to a saw mill, before being purchased by Eben Kilborn (1846-1940) in 1891 and finally being owned by Isaac Morrill who operated a lumber mill here in the early years of the 20th century.

By the 1840s the wool processing mill of Moses Cross had been acquired by Eber Clough (1814-1893). He operated a versatile operation on the site including a starch factory and shingle mill according to the 1855 MAINE REGISTER. By 1874 he is listed in the MAINE REGISTER as a manufacturer of woollens, starch, spools and salt boxes. Eben Kilborn purchased the Clough mill in the 1890s, rebuilding the dam. Isaac Morrill later owned this structure as well as the original Twitchell grist mill. In 1904, both mills were producing wood products, indicating the transition from locally consumed manufactured goods to industrial production for export.

Among the other 19th century industries located in the Mill Hill area was the tannery of Deacon Robbins Brown (1786-1862), later owned by his sons David (1812-1882) and Robbins, Jr., (1818-1879). The tannery was operated from the 1830s to the 1870s on the island across from the Twitchell grist mill in the area where the original millworkers house once stood.



According to Leonard Bond Chapman, Mill Hill began as a bridge path cleared by Eleazer Twitchell in order to reach his large clapboarded frame house long known as "The Castle," near the present-day Opera House Condominium. Previous to this, and following the 1785 flood, Twitchell had constructed a smaller cabin approximately halfway up the hill, which proved too small for his twelve children and was later converted to a cider mill. It seems clear that the "Castle" was later (1830s) incorporated into Jedediah Burbank's Bethel House, one of the town's first hotels. This structure was burned in the great fire of 1865, and the lot was vacant until 1884 when E.C. Rowe built the store building (now the Opera House Condos). Eleazer Twitchell, in addition to his other mills on Mill Hill, had a potash works on the north side of the present bridge. According to Leonard Bond Chapman, the large kettle used in this operation was turned upside down and used as a stove in the Main Street School (which stood somewhere near the corner of Elm and Main, probably on the site of the present Bethel House). After Eleazer Twitchell's death in 1818, this lot passed into the hands of his heirs, Joseph Twitchell (1782-1864) and Jacob Ellingwood (1794-1826). From the Twitchell family, the property passed (for \$700 for 5 acres) to Dana, Dana, Cutter (this was apparently some kind of business partnership of which we know nothing) in 1826. In 1833, the property was sold to Jedediah Burbank (1784-1860), who sold the property to John Harris two years later. From the Harris heirs the property was transferred to William Whitcomb in 1889. There it remained until the 1930s when it became the possession of the Town of Bethel. It was acquired by William Bingham II (1879-1955) in 1940. Following Mr. Bingham's death in 1955, the property passed into the hands of Gould Academy. The parking lot in back of the fire station was deeded by the Academy to the Town of Bethel in 1965.

The rest of this area remained a field which I remember in the 1920s as the place where my dad used to pasture his cows. There were apple trees, and the young boys in the neighborhood played baseball and other games here. I used it as a short cut to visit the Park where I walked to school with my second cousin, Barbara Lyon (Kuzyk). The present "L'Auberge" was originally a barn in our day owned by G.L. Thurston, who lived in the house in the Park now occupied by Richard and Carole Crandall. Catherine Lyon Bush recalls the enormous size of this barn with its cupola, the great work horses and heavy logging equipment used by Mr. Thurston. It was a thrill for her to see the horses drawing logging sleds from a hard winter's work. The field was also used as a logging yard. For a number of years this barn stood vacant until it was purchased by Peter Schutt, manager of the Bethel Inn from 1940 to 1956. He converted the barn and lot into a private residence in the 1940s. It was also the private residence of later owners: Joseph A. McGowan, Jr., August and Frieda Kalbitzer and Susan K. Luce (Mrs. Kalbitzer's daughter). Mrs. Luce sold the premises to the late Dr. Werner Kohlmeyer (died Feb. 1989) and Irene Kohlmeyer in 1977, who established the building as a country hostelry, called L'Auberge Country Inn. They have made many improvements to the property. She continues to live in Baltimore, MD, but relies on managers to operate the business. Current managers are David and Susan Burnham.

Ralph Merrill's mobile home sits on the site of a house built toward the end of the 19th century. Owners have included

Lotte Inman, Alice Holman, Euberto and Mary Brown, and Gilbert Brown. It was sold by the Brown family for \$2500 to Jesse Chapman in 1953. Chapman rented the property. Tenants from 1954 to 1961 were the Merton Brown, Sr. family. Merton Brown, Jr. recalls several very fond memories of life on Mill Hill including Ella Bartlett's soft molasses cookies and the Cushman bakeman (now Sheriff Alton Howe) who always seemed "to have a never-ending supply of gum." Merton also remembers that Peter Schutt was always trying to keep "those Brown kids off the golf course." Jessie Chapman sold the property to Walter and Greta Osgood in 1965, who ten years later conveyed the premises to Leonard and Rebecca Shaw. It was during the Shaw ownership that the house burned after they had moved to their new home on the Northwest Bethel Road. The house was considered a total loss. Earlier, during the Osgood ownership of the property, there was another fire after which some renovations were made. Also living here was a Mrs. Holman (related to the Blake, Grover and Glines families). Two of the Grover children, Verna (Thayer) and Walter Grover, stayed with her here while attending Gould Academy. This property was once used as a liquor agency where only with a doctor's prescription could one obtain intoxicants. Gilbert and Esther Brown lived here for many years. Tenants who followed them included Fred McMillin, Ernest & Alberta Angevine, and Rufus and Mary Rice. Ralph Merrill acquired the lot in 1986.

The next property once was the site of a large white house built in the late 19th century, possibly by Pinckney Burnham (1814-1892). From Burnham the premises passed to Isaac and Leona Morrill in 1892. Isaac Morrill operated the lumber mill south of the present bridge. In 1919, the property was transferred to the Morrill's daughter and son-in-law, Frank and Linnie Abbott. It was "Aunt Linnie" who opened a maternity home here with Dr. I.H. Wight (1875-1931), often the attending physician. Many of us born in the 1920s took our first breath here. Dorothy Haines (1903-1987) of East Bethel worked for Linnie and later married her son Burton (1901-). Sylvanus "Venie" (1888-1963) and Eva (1890-1979) Browne rented the upstairs in this house, and several of their children (Betty, Paul, "Bud," & Polly) were born here. Rachael Mayberry (1855-1930), an aunt to Alton (1897-1976) and Erwin (1901-1953) Hutchinson, acquired the property so that they could care for their parents, Bill (1865-1939) and Belle (1865-?) Hutchinson. Alton and his wife, the former Maidie Hazelton (1886-1958), lived in the upstairs rent; Erwin and Irene Burgess Hutchinson lived in the front rent downstairs for many years while their parents (Bill & Belle) lived in the downstairs back rent. Bill Hutchinson was confined to a wheelchair, having lost a leg. Irene continued to live here after the death of her husband, but later left to spend time in South Paris. Maidie's sister Florence stayed with Alton after her sister's death. Alton rented the downstairs apartment to Paul and Mary Shaw for many years. The house burned on January 3

EDITOR'S CORNER

Society Life Member Kathleen S. Bean has brought to my attention the fact that there are indeed photographs of the canning and casket factories in the Woodstock pictorial history reviewed in the last issue of the COURIER by Joyce Wanger. Any confusion this oversight may have caused readers is regretted.

SRH

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The centerpiece of this issue of the COURIER is Mary Keniston's excellent history of the Mill Hill section of Bethel. This subject has inspired me to reflect on the general significance of the hills in this part of New England.

Long ago in ancient Greece, mountain ranges separated communities known as *poleis* and spawned the love of independence, which encouraged the birth of democratic government. Before the era of modern communication and transportation, New England towns, isolated by mountain ranges, also developed a strong tradition of independence and democracy.

In the West Parish of Bethel, once called "Bethel Hill", some of the most influential members of the community settled on a hilltop overlooking the valleys formed by Mill Brook and the Androscoggin River. This elevated center soon surpassed in population earlier settlement closer to the Androscoggin.

Hills are difficult to farm, but farming and logging kept Bethel prosperous from its earliest days. Later it was discovered that the hills of this region possessed a special kind of beauty that attracted visitors from "away". Soon Bethel became the tourist mecca that it remains today.

In more recent times, the steep pitch of our hillsides has attracted the skiing industry. This has resulted in rapid growth and much media attention because of our proximity to two major ski areas.

Today some of the awe and mystery of the mountains has been lost. However, once in awhile, when the light and cloud patterns are just right, one can still catch glimpses of the special beauty which so captivated travelers in the 19th century.

Marvin Ouwinga

1968, and I remember that event very well. My father, Millard, sat in his chair and cried; and I must admit my feelings at the time were the same. Irene did come after the fire to attempt to salvage a few of her possessions stored here, but few remained since they had dropped from the second to the first floor. The cellar hole was later filled in. An attached shed and barn were saved. Later Alton purchased a mobile home and moved it to the lot. He lived there until his death after which his heirs sold the premises to Richard Haines of Dixfield in June 1978. Mr. Haines and family continue to make their home here.

Just below the Hutchinson house was a garage built by John Burbank for Eben Kilborn to house his automobile during the winter. His widow, Joan Stearns Kilborn, (1879-1956) continued to use this building for her automobile in the 1940s and 1950s. Eben Kilborn apparently sold the mill site to Frank C. Bartlett (1835-1905) in 1885. It was Bartlett who carried on an extensive wagon and carriage manufacturing business here until his death. He was succeeded in this work by his son Frank R. Bartlett (1881-1958) who continued to manufacture conveyances until they were elbowed aside by the popularity of the automobile. "Frankie" Bartlett diversified his operations to include all kinds of metal work. Catherine Lyon Bush recalls how fascinated her husband was with "Frankie's" talents and skills.

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SOCIETY SALES DEPARTMENT

The Society maintains a selection of modestly priced gifts and historical publications. These may be ordered at the prices listed below. Maine residents should include 5% sales tax. Orders under \$10 should include \$1 for postage and handling; those over \$10 but under \$20 should include \$2 and all those over \$20 should include \$3 for postage and handling.

Moses Mason House Tile \$3.50
Stationery (package of ten sheets and ten envelopes) \$2 ea.

Moses Mason House Bethel Railroad Station
Summer House Bethel Covered Bridge

Booklets

"Bethel's Broad Street" 75¢
"The Family Farm" 75¢
"Made in Bethel" 75¢
"Dr. Moses Mason and His House" \$1
"Molly Ockett" \$2

Maps and Atlases

1880 Map of Bethel Hill \$2
1880 Map of Entire Town (Bethel) \$2
1878 Bird's Eye View of Bethel Hill \$1
1858 Atlas of Oxford County \$6.50
Tote Bag (Moses Mason Museum logo) sm. \$7.50 lg. \$11.50
Placemats, 4 Season (set of four) \$7.50

Books

Heywood, HISTORY OF UPTON, MAINE \$10
Hutchinson, THE RUMFORD FALLS & RANGELEY LAKES RAILROAD \$20
BETHEL, MAINE CEMETERIES \$9.50
Russell, INDIAN NEW ENGLAND BEFORE THE MAYFLOWER \$11.95
William B. Lapham, HISTORY OF WOODSTOCK, MAINE \$19.95
B. G. Willey, INCIDENTS IN WHITE MOUNTAIN HISTORY \$25
Maxim & Lapham, HISTORY OF PARIS \$55
Holt, GRAND TRUNK LINES OF NEW ENGLAND \$24.95
D. B. Wight, WILD RIVER WILDERNESS \$4
Francis Parkman, THE GOULD ACADEMY STORY \$7.50
MAINE IN THE EARLY REPUBLIC \$29.95
BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY COOKBOOK \$5
Thomas Hubka, BIG HOUSE, LITTLE HOUSE, BACK HOUSE BARN: THE CONNECTED FARM BUILDINGS OF NEW ENGLAND Paper \$19.95. Cloth \$29.95
William B. Lapham, HISTORY OF NORWAY, MAINE \$55
M. F. King, ANNALS OF OXFORD \$48
Jean Lipman, RUFUS PORTER REDISCOVERED \$14.95
A TRUTHFUL LIKENESS: CHESTER HARDING AND HIS PORTRAITS \$25
Paula Wight, NEWRY PROFILES \$5
Eva Bean, EAST BETHEL ROAD \$50
R. H. Bennett, OXFORD COUNTY, MAINE \$18
William B. Lapham, HISTORY OF BETHEL, 1768-1890 \$45
F. W. Kilbourne, CHRONICLES OF THE WHITE MOUNTAINS \$20

T-Shirts

Moses Mason Museum (Adult) (S,M,L,XL) \$7
Moses Mason Museum (Child's) (4-6-8-10-12-14) \$6
Sudbury Canada 1768-1796 (Adult) (S,M,L,XL) \$7
Sudbury Canada 1768-1796 (Child's) (4-6-8-10-12-14) \$6

Post Cards: Dr. Mason, Agnes Mason,

Moses Mason House 10¢ ea.
Bethel Historical Society Calendar, 1989 \$6

Members of the Bethel Historical Society are entitled to a 10% discount for purchases totaling \$10 or more. Please send orders to the Society at P.O. Box 12, Bethel, Maine 04217. They will be sent by return mail.



Grace McKivergan demonstrates weaving during the 10th Annual Sudbury Canada Days held August 12-13. Heavy rains did not discourage a large attendance by visitors from throughout the Northeast. A wide variety of heritage centered events were held inside the Dr. Moses Mason House and the John Hastings Homestead next door.

(Mill Hill, continued from page 3)

He was the master of a bandsaw from which he fashioned wheels. He also crafted sled runners for heavy logging and other equipment, all powered by water from Mill Brook. Margaret Joy Tibbetts recalls "Frankie" as "a small man with a soft voice and a somewhat sly but engaging grin." He was, she remembers, "a marvelous workman," repaired tools for her parents, and made a "splendid ornamental sign" for her sister, Mary Tibbetts Freeman. Mary also learned from "Frankie" according to Margaret, the fine art of upholstering. He also was in Margaret's view a man who "knew everything that was going on" since "there were always workmen who came by daily to chat." As a paperboy in the 1930s, Francis "Hi" Berry recalls visiting the shop on Saturdays to collect his 18¢ per week: "Depending on what he was doing or making at the time determined how much time I would spend in the sooty low ceiling shop to watch ole' Frank work while he 'chomped' and spit his cud of tobacco." I recall, as does Margaret Tibbetts, running to the windows and looking down into the swirling water.

After Mrs. Kilborn's death in 1956 the garage was sold to Rodney Brooks, who in turn sold it to Ragnar Torjesen in 1961. "Frankie's" widow Ella sold the mill and shop site in 1959 to Rodney Brooks, who carried on a repair business here for a time. Brooks also foreclosed on Torjesen for lack of payment on the Kilborn garage property. In 1962 he sold the entire premises to Harold Rolfe who demolished the shop/mill building which dated from the 18th century, perhaps from the days of Eleazer Twitchell himself. Rolfe dug a cellar hole near the site of the shop and proceeded to move the Kilborn garage to this foundation to be a residence. Before this construction was completed, he sold the lot and building to Stanley Davis (1926-1973) in 1962, who completed the renovation. In September 1965, Roger Conant, the new manager of the Case Bank branch in Bethel, rented the property from Stanley Davis. His wife Lillian was at that time the home economics teacher at Gould Academy. The Conants purchased the lot and building in November 1965 and have made additions in 1967 and 1987.

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REFLECTIONS OF A HALF CENTURY

(continued from the last issue)

By Leslie E. Davis

The North Newry Post Office was moved back to the old Foster place where Father lived; my mother was appointed temporary Postmaster when I resigned that fall.

The west end of the house in Bethel that I bought was occupied by Joel Sweatt's widow, and the east end by "Ben Brown's" family when I acquired it, but both families moved out right away. After we moved in, the west end was vacant for a month or two as it was in very bad condition and needed cleaning up and some fixing up to make it livable. We got it in passable shape late that fall and Marie's father and mother moved in from Locke Mills.

Percy Walker bought the farms and woodlots in Newry which Eli Stearns owned, consisting of about 1100 acres, in 1922. In order to clear up his title to the property so he could build a skewer mill and start operations, he purchased from me an unexpired timber cutting contract, which I had with Stearns plus the log cabin I had built. I sold the log house to him and cancelled the contract for the \$800 cash, which made us both happy, as I didn't have any title to the land on which the log house stood, only a ten year occupancy permit with six or seven years more to run. This was included in the timber cutting agreement, at the expiration of which I would have been obliged to abandon it or move it off.

During the winter of 1922 and 1923 at the Herrick Bros. Co. Garage, we started developing an automobile which could be used in winter on snow roads since the highways in Maine up to the year 1927 were not plowed for regular automobile travel. The only travel on the roads in the winter was by horses with sleighs and sleds, and as each snow storm came it was packed down with large road rollers, hauled by horses.

The standard width for sleighs and sleds was about ten or twelve inches narrower than that for wagons and automobiles; consequently standard automobiles couldn't follow the same track, so our first development was to shorten the axles of a standard Ford roadster to match the width of sleds and sleighs, making short runners for the front axle to use in place of wheels.

We made the vehicle as light as possible and used heavy chains on the rear wheels to give more traction. This type worked fairly well as long as the weather was cold and the snow stayed solid frozen. We had something of a problem in meeting or passing teams as the snow outside the beaten track was not solid enough to hold up the outfit, so we usually followed behind or backed up until we could use a turnout or driveway.

We did quite a business with this type of snow car as we maintained two or three which we operated on a rental basis, usually with a driver. We built and sold some to doctors and other people who needed to get around in the winter.

Our youngest daughter, Kathryn, was born on February 18, 1923 at Mrs. Linnie Abbott's maternity hospital, which was the Isaac Morrill House on Mill Hill in Bethel. (The same house was later occupied by Alton and Erwin Hutchinson.) Dr. I.H. Wight was the attending physician, and the first ride Kathryn ever took in any kind of vehicle was when I brought her and Marie home from the hospital about a week or ten days later in one of our snow cars.



In honor of Dr. Moses Mason's 200th birthday, the Society sponsored a Mason Family Gathering, which attracted Masons from all over New England. The event was organized by Elizabeth Mason Carter (above second from left), who greeted those attending at the registration desk. With Mrs. Carter is from left to right Dr. Charles Smith, Harrison, Cynthia Mason, Gilead, and Frances Thayer, Waterville. The second annual gathering of the Mason family will be held at the Dr. Moses Mason House on Sunday July 1, 1990.

Herrick Bros. Co. where I worked had the sales agency for Ford automobiles and trucks; during that summer of 1923 did an excellent business in both sales and repair work.

During the summer of 1923, I did quite a bit of repair work on our house on High Street. I dug out and walled up the cellar; I had a bulkhead entrance put in which became an outside entrance with steps. I also had a hot air furnace installed in the part where we lived.

During the summer of either 1923 or 1924, I bought the old house at Middle Intervale known as the "Gorham" house of Herbert Carter for \$35; I tore it down and rebuilt the framework and outside walls and roof on the east end of our house lot for a garage and storage building. Incidentally, Marie's father, Charles L. Swan, was born in this same house at Middle Intervale on January 25, 1854.

As the winter of 1923-24 approached, more people seemed to be interested in winter travel and our business with winter snow cars continued to be excellent. During this winter we were experimenting with an improvement which had greater capacity and was not so dependent on a hard surfaced snow road.

We built a vehicle with a set of idler wheels just forward of the drive wheels and made a belt to go over the drive wheel and idler wheels on each side, very similar to the lags or belts used now on a crawler type tractor except very much lighter.

We experimented with various materials to make this belt. We tried narrow belting fastened to wooden cleats which were hallowed out to fit over the tires of the idler and driver wheels. We also tried rope and light chain and none of it would last very long until we started using wire rope.

(to be continued)



MEMBER PROFILES

Donald B. and Edith Eaton Eddy

Donald B. Eddy was born in Avon, CT, studied at the Sorbonne in Paris and graduated from Cornell University in 1933. He served as a Foreign Service Officer, later working for a United Nations agency and following that serving as a Ford Foundation consultant for Indo-China. He and his wife retired to Bethel in 1971, living at Sunset Farm, built by Ayres Mason in the 1820s, brother of Dr. Moses Mason. Mrs. Eddy was born in Collinsville, CT, and worked as a secretary before her marriage to Mr. Eddy in 1935. They became parents of three and later had three grandchildren.

Very active in the community, they also volunteered many hours to the Society, where they held life membership. For several years Mr. Eddy headed the Building Committee, also serving as a trustee and member of the Garden and Grounds Committee. Mrs. Eddy was for some time a guide in the museum, who also served on the Museum Committee and the Noll Volunteer Service Award Selection Committee. She was Society Secretary 1978-81 and trustee 1981-1984. She died in August 1989 shortly before they were to move to Haverford, PA. They were honored for their many years of dedicated service to the Society in a reception held in July.

BOOK REVIEW

WILLIAM DAY AND DOROTHY LITTLEFIELD AND MANY OF THEIR ANCESTORS, DESCENDANTS & COUSINS, compiled by Ina Harris Day. xviii & 287 pps., paperback, 8 1/2 x 11, published by DACOMM Family Organization, Sidnee Day Spencer, Pres., 6215 South Westridge Street, Murray, Utah 84107; \$12.50 postpaid.

Dr. Ralph J. Crandall, director of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, has written in his well-received book, **SHAKING YOUR FAMILY TREE: A BASIC GUIDE TO TRACING YOUR FAMILY'S GENEALOGY** (1986) that, in conducting genealogical research, "you will meet many new people, correspond with many more, learn much about our nation's past, and ultimately produce a work that your family will

cherish for generations." Such reasoning undoubtedly describes the tireless efforts of this volume's compiler, Ina Harris Day, who now brings to a close over twelve years of investigative work into the history and origins of the Day family, and its many allied families.

Focusing initially on her husband's direct line Day ancestry, Mrs. Day's voluminous work branches out to include many family connections, all with interesting early New England histories. The main subject of this book, William Day (born at Wells, Maine, in 1731) was the great-grandson of immigrant Anthony Day, and husband of Dorothy Littlefield; a detailed description of thousands of their descendants, as well as selected ancestors, makes up the bulk of this fine volume.

Mrs. Day's book contains, in some places, seventeen generations of Day descendants, bringing individuals right down to July 1989, when the book was issued. Though the arrangement, in a series of indentations with special codes, is somewhat of a drawback, the text takes little effort to follow from generation to generation. The book contains maps, as well as will and deed abstracts, all of which add to its value. The "every-name" index, with over 12,000 entries, is a remarkable achievement, and an example of what EVERY published genealogy should contain. In an effort to make her book available to all, Mrs. Day has seen fit to charge a most reasonable price for her labors. Certainly, everyone with connections to this Day family (other major families treated include the Eastmans, Alleys, and Pendexters) will want to own a copy.

Randall H. Bennett

Randall H. Bennett is the Society's Curator of Collections.

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

NORRIS & BARBARA BOWN, Bethel; FLORENCE S. DYER, Milford, NH; GORDON KIMBALL, SR., Gray; JOHN & LUCY NORDAHL, Lexington, MA; F. OWEN & SUE WIGHT, Newry.



Society Director Howe presents the 1989 Noll Volunteer Service Award to Barbara Herrick Brown at the 24th Annual Meeting.

(*Mill Hill, continued from page 4*)

During the days when "Frankie's" shop was at the bottom of Mill Hill, there were hazards, as an item from the *Oxford Advertiser* for April 3, 1891, emphasizes: "Letting out the water from the hydrant at the top of Mill Hill last week swept the road down the hill and filled F.C. Bartlett's carriage shop with manure from the road, so E.S. (Eben Shaw) Kilborn backed up his cart and filled it."

The mill site south of the present Mill Brook bridge was once owned by Eben Kilborn. He sold the property to Isaac S. Morrill for \$3500 on April 23, 1892. It was operated by Mr. Morrill and son for about twenty years. In 1913 the mill was sold to William J. Upson (1878-1936), who dismantled it before selling the property to the present owner, Bethel Inn.

There were once two bridges at the foot of Mill Hill. The first spanned Mill Brook and the second, which was nearer the Route 5/Mill Hill intersection, the sluiceway from the mill pond.

The next house, as we come up the hill on the right, was called in my day the Daniel Glines house. He was the father of Eva Glines Herrick (1891-1977), Dorothy Glines Blake (1905-1977), and others. The house was left to the children, who sold it to Lena Shaw in 1922. During this time it was rented by a number of families, including those of Bert Gibbs, Guy Vail and William Young. Mabel and Retta Shaw of Portland were the last owners of the property before it was sold in 1959 to the Bethel Inn, which demolished it. All that remains of this site is the large rock which stood at the left of the driveway entrance. Children were always attracted to it and Merton Brown recalls playing here when he was a child growing up on Mill Hill.

The former Hannibal Grover (1837-1907) house was once owned by Arthur and Alice Buxton. Mr. Buxton was a shoemaker with a shop in the rear of the old Bethel Restaurant, which once stood on the lot now occupied by the Bethel IGA. Among the tenants here were Sophronia Keniston and the Coburn and Sanborn families. The Bethel Inn acquired the property in 1917 for \$1600 and carried out extensive renovations including the addition of a front porch. It was then used for several years as a chauffeurs' quarters. In 1939 the Bethel Inn sold the main portion of the house to Abner Kimball, who had it moved to a new foundation on Mason Street where it became the home of Albert and Beatrice Grover. The rear portion of the building was sold to Niles Kellogg (1883-1955), who used some of this material for his new grain store on Railroad Street, which has since been demolished to make room for the new home of Earl Hutchinson.

My home was built at least by the 1850s since it has been in the family all that time, beginning with Samuel Holt (1803-1891). His first wife, Elvira (b.1808), died in 1852, and he married Abby Chase (1817-1876), who became the mother of his three daughters: Elvira Abbie, (1855-1935), Ida Annah and Arvilla Serena (1858-1897). Ida (1856-1906) married Orville Clough, a Civil War veteran (12th Maine Inf.) and son of Eber Clough, owner of a mill on Mill Brook. Arvilla and Elvira never married, although Great Aunt "Vira," as we called her, was engaged to George "Spot" Herrick who accidentally shot himself and died. My father, Millard Clough (1884-1973), was born in this house on October 25, 1884, as was his older brother Robert, (1878-1963). After the death of his parents, Millard continued to stay with Aunt "Vira," his sole surviving

aunt. Millard married Frances Brown (1891-1963), and became a painter. This was home to all of his children, although Maxine was born in Albany and the rest of us at Linnie Abbott's maternity home. Aunt "Vira" deeded the property to Dad in December 1930, and he transferred it to me in December 1965. Aunt "Vira" boarded Bethel Inn workers here in the teens and twenties. In 1949 the barn and shed burned, causing much water and smoke damage to the house. Included in the loss was \$500 worth of paint, plus ladders and other painting equipment.

The present Willows, now owned by Bethel Inn, was once the Greek Revival Style home of Dr. John Grover (1783-1866), who acquired the property from Jacob Ellingwood. Dr. Grover was a vice president of the Gould Academy Board of Trustees. John Philbrook later owned the property as did Moses A. Mason (1826-1904) who willed it to his sister Angelia Mason Clark (1838-1930); she sold it to Horace Sears in 1911. The following year it was acquired by Bethel Inn which has owned it ever since. At one time it was used by nannies and small children (1920s). The long building in back was used as garages for autos. Mechanics working in the garages were Bill McCrae, Roland Kneeland (1903-1977), Henry (1888-1946) and Roy (1886-1956) Bennett. In the late 1920s a boiler room and laundry were moved from the main building to the back of the Willows where some rebuilding was necessary to house the new heating units. The laundry was installed in the end of the ell extending from the boiler room. Mildred Wilbur was supervisor here for many years. The shed portion of the Willows in back was used for an office and maintenance by Edward "Ted" Swan (1907-1976), who was head of maintenance for the grounds and golf course. He was succeeded by Bertie Connors (1913-1983), and there have been several since that time. Currently Drew Webster handles maintenance at the Inn. The laundry was discontinued many years ago, and the workshop area is now there. The garage space is currently used for storing golf equipment.

On the northern corner of Mill Hill and Route 5, Claude ("Hap") Goddard (1890-1934) had a farm, where he raised Herefords. He did not live here, but many people rented the property including "Venie" and Eva Browne, and Pat and Mabel O'Brien. Following Hap's suspicious death in 1934, his heirs sold the property to Jennie Kimball Brown, who lived here for a time with her husband George. They later rented the property to Frank and Sylvia Benson and Clarence and Ruby Rolfe. Jennie sold the property to Gould Academy in 1943, and they demolished the buildings. Gould still owns the land.

Across the road on the southern corner of Route 5 stood a set of buildings owned since 1888 by Lois Swan, who sold them to Niles Kellogg in 1930. From Kellogg the property passed to the Bethel Savings Bank, which sold the property to William Bingham II. It was transferred to the Bethel Inn in 1942. Later the Bethel Inn demolished the house and cleared up the lot.

Across Route 5 on the southerly corner of Grover Hill is the home of Martha Sweatt. Her late husband, Marcus ("Tim") Sweatt, acquired the premises from Harry Inman (1868-1959). He remodeled a barn on the property for an auto body repair shop with an apartment upstairs. After the shop was closed, Martha had the body shop converted to a small garage. The house on the site, last owned by Harry Inman, was torn down

(*continued on next page*)

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due to its deteriorated condition. Its origins extend back to before the turn of the century when it was owned by James Seavey, who transferred the property to his sister Mary G. Bosworth and nephew William C. Bosworth in 1911. From Bosworth the property passed to Elden B. Andrews in 1914. Other owners have included Ellis Annis, Roland E. Annis, Mabel H. Bartlett, Roscoe and Mabelle Andrews. From the Andrews family, the property passed to Martha in 1957. The house was demolished by George Merrill, who sustained an eye injury during the demolition. Renters of the property before the Sweatts included Ralph and Helen Berry and family, Harry and Dorothy Clough Gordon and family, and Roger and Alice Clough.

The next house on Route 5 as we move toward Albany is that of Robert and Pauline Davis. Its origins go back to the 19th century. From 1900 to 1916, the property was owned by John A. Chapman, who sold the property to True Brown. He rented the property to his brother and wife, Levi and Hattie Brown, who brought up their family here. Hattie died young, and her only daughter Beryl, who later married Arthur Morgan, brought up her brothers Vernon, Walter, Hugh and Merton. True Brown sold the property to Marion Kimball in 1941 for \$800. She was the mother of Pauline Davis and Rebecca Kendall, and later married Clarence Kimball. They had an upstairs apartment which was rented at various times to Rebecca Kendall, Ray Jewell, Edna Curtis, Lawrence and Mary Kendall, Arthur Brown, and Robert and Pauline Davis. Marion Kimball also housed boarders here in the 1940s. She sold the premises to her daughter Pauline and husband Robert Davis in 1952 for \$3200. During the Davis ownership the barn was removed after the roof fell in.

Eben Kilborn owned the next site; Arthur Barker probably rebuilt the house in the 1890s. The residence was constructed early in the 19th century. Channing Grover acquired the property in 1911 for \$1200. Other owners include William Bingham II, Daniel Glines, Mabel Blake, Walter Blake, Roscoe and Mabelle Tift, Robert and Rosabelle Tift. It was during the Tift ownership that a fire occurred, causing much damage. George Stebbins acquired it after the fire and extensively remodeled both the exterior and interior. He sold it to William Bentley in September 1972, who sold to George and Cheryl Angevine in 1976. The Angevines made many changes before selling to Cloutier, Bryant and O'Hara from the Camden/Rockport area.

The next site was taken from the previous lot by Rosabelle Tift. She placed a mobile home here, which burned in 1975. It was replaced with a modular one on a slab. Renters here have included Kelly Morgan, Oliver St. Pierre, Walter and Rhonda Brown Mitchell, Mary Baron, Christopher Kinney, and Allan Stinson.

Frank Bartlett's house was built in the late 19th century. It was in the Bartlett family until 1958 when it was acquired by Jesse and Florence Perry. Florence Perry sold to Donald and Audrey Taylor in 1977, who sold the premises to Wesley and Carolyn G. Mills in 1985. Catherine Lyon Bush reminded me of the lovely perennial gardens that once graced this property during the ownership of the Bartlett family. My sister Ida Lee, who took dancing lessons of Bertha Clements (Sue Farrar), used to entertain Ella Bartlett here with her rendition of Shirley Temple's "Good Ship Lollipop."

Kenneth Pease's house was built about 1930 by Edwin Morrill (son of Auranus) near the site of a previous house, which was constructed here in the mid-19th century. Morrill's widow sold the property in 1966 to Ralph and Nicole Merrill, who three years later conveyed it to the present owner. The previous house was once owned by Moses Cross (1807-1883), followed by Pinckney Burnham (1814-1892). The next owner was Clement Seavey Heath (1820-1874) who sold the property to Churchill Lary for \$400 in 1866. Other owners include Florence King, Eben Kilborn, Mary C. Lapham, Edward Lapham, and Auranus Merrill. The buildings must have burned about 1910 or 1911, since only land was sold in 1911 for \$50.

Jean Owen's shingle style house was built about 1910 by Auranus Morrill. His widow Eva sold the property to James and Jean Owen in 1959. James Owen transferred it to Jean in 1975.

The Adams home was once owned by Eber Clough, who owned the mill that once stood across Route 5 from his house. He was a life-long Democrat, who served in the Maine Legislature and on the Board of Selectmen. He also served as a trustee of Gould Academy. Other owners of this property after the Clough family include Eben Kilborn, Frank Taylor, Perley Andrews, Peter Schutt, William Bingham II, Gardner Smith, Stanley and Arlene Tyler, Francis and Helen Berry, and Charles and Deborah Adams. Mr. Adams is employed by Boise Cascade, and his wife is a nurse at Stephens Memorial Hospital.

The next property dates from the 19th century. It was once owned by Eber Clough, who transferred the premises to Ceylon Rowe. Rowe sold to Melvin Coburn for \$300 in 1886. The following year the property was transferred to Moses Coburn for \$700. From the Coburn family it passed to Edgar Andrews in 1907. From the Andrews family, the property was acquired by Homer C. Smith, Sr., in 1940. His heirs sold the premises to Clifford Hill in 1976.

The house now occupied by Larry and Brenda Sweatt Prech was built about 1948 by Homer Smith, Jr., on land given him by his father. In 1954 he sold the property to Katherine McMillin, who transferred it to her sister Edna Curtis in 1966. She sold the property to Lewis Sargeant in 1985, who sold it to Martha Sweatt that same year. She rents it to her daughter and husband.

The mill sites along Mill Brook have included a number of operations. Here the first mill was built by Joseph Twitchell and operated by his son Eleazer in 1774. According to Lapham's HISTORY OF BETHEL, this mill later became Eber Clough's starch factory. Wool carding and cloth dressing mills were also here, operated at various times by James Walker, John Harris, Moses T. Cross, and Eber Clough. There was also a dowel and lumber mill here as well. The surviving stone dam held back the brook and must have provided water power for several operations. It is now part of the Bethel Inn Golf Course. I well remember being among a number of children who skated on the old mill pond. During the 1970s Gould Academy students under the direction of Alvin Barth conducted extensive archaeological digs in this area where they found a great number of artifacts relating to those years when this site was a manufacturing one.

Through all these changes Mill Hill has moved from being primarily a manufacturing center to a residential one. There are no mills left, only a few foundations and a remnant of a large dam, which, as already noted, is part of the Bethel Inn Golf course. Families have come and gone, fires have taken a heavy

(Mill Hill, continued from page 8)

toll of Mill Hill buildings and the wreckers hammer even more. Yet it is still possible to see the evidence of 200 years of development in this most historic section of Bethel.

24th ANNUAL MEETING

Over fifty members and friends of the Society attended the 24th annual meeting held at the Dr. Moses Mason House. As usual the meeting was preceded by a delicious pot luck supper under the supervision of the Special Projects Committee, headed by Persis Post. Vice president Jane Hosterman, who presided in the absence of the president, called upon the Nominating Committee for their report. The committee, consisting of Lynda Chandler representing the Board of Trustees with Ranald Stevens and Betty Perkins representing the general membership, announced the following slate: President, Marvin Ouwinga, Vice President, Jane Hosterman; Secretary and Clerk of the Trustees, Kenneth Bohr; Treasurer, Margaret Joy Tibbetts; Trustees for 3 years, Margaret Davis and Sylvia Wight. This slate was approved by the membership

Mrs. Hosterman briefly reviewed the Society's record since the last annual meeting. It included very successful special events, Homecoming Day, "Christmas with the Masons", Heritage Day and Sudbury Canada Days, the addition of over 60 gifts of artifacts to the Society's collection, the addition of 58 new members to the Society's rolls, the addition of over \$7000 to the Society's endowment from over 200 donors, the presentation of a much-needed microfilm cabinet to the Society from the family of E. Louise Lincoln, participation in the Norumbega project with the Bethel Library, publication of a book on Bethel cemeteries and the presentation of the Marjorie MacArthur Noll Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service to Sudie Vachon. She then presented seven honorary memberships to those selected by the Trustees for the highest membership honor. To be eligible one has to be at least 75 years of age and possess an outstanding record of service to the organization. Those honored included Barbara Herrick Brown, who also received the 1989 Noll Award; Julia Brown, a life member, generous donor, member of the Building and Special Projects Committees for many years; Florence B. Hastings, also a life member, generous donor and for many years museum



Honorary membership certificates were presented by Society Vice President Jane Hosterman to all of the above: (left to right) Mildred Thomas, Barbara Herrick Brown, Julia Brown, Marguerite Quinn, and Helen Morton. Absent from the photograph were Florence Hastings and Louise Lincoln, who also received their certificates at the 24th annual meeting.

guide and craft demonstrator; E. Louise Lincoln, life member, generous donor and former treasurer, currently bookkeeper and assistant treasurer, longtime member of the Endowment Campaign and Investment committees; Helen Morton, benefactor member for a number of years, trustee, generous donor, museum guide for 14 seasons, longtime member of the Program and Art committees of the Society; Marguerite Quinn, also a life member, generous donor and active volunteer for many years; Mildred C. Thomas, museum guide, longtime Museum Committee member and generous donor.

Society Director Stanley R. Howe announced the 1989 Marjorie MacArthur Noll Volunteer Service Award winner, Barbara Herrick Brown. Howe cited her 15 years of devoted service, including the furnishing of fresh flowers to the museum throughout the summer since 1974, her service as a

(continued on next page)

Join the Bethel Historical Society dedicated to preserving and interpreting the local past.

Membership in the Society entitles you to:

- | | |
|---|--|
| (1) free admission to the museum | (5) quarterly publication |
| (2) special discounts at museum store | (6) reduced course fees |
| (3) preferred rate for meeting room rental | (7) voting rights in the Society |
| (4) special library and archival privileges | (8) special invitations to Society occasions |

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craft demonstrator on numerous occasions, her presentation of two street programs at Society meetings, and her donations to the collection of the Society. The Society Director summed up his remarks about Mrs. Brown by saying that "no organization could have a more enthusiastic supporter".

Dr. Howe introduced the speaker for the evening, Gwilym R. Roberts of Farmington, former Dean of Arts and Humanities at the University of Maine at Farmington, who spoke on the topic, "Sources of Local History: The Routine and the Remarkable." Dean Roberts described the extensive research he has done on Maine towns through the years, focusing particularly on town meeting and school committee records in the 19th century. He stressed that these records are often underappreciated sources for local historians since they provide numerous insights into the standards of particular communities and how they operated. In language sometimes blunt and often evasive, Roberts quoted from these minutes which provided intriguing insights into the issues facing local officials in the early 19th century.

NEW TRUSTEE **Margaret A. Davis**

Born on May 4, 1926 in Orange, NJ, Margaret Davis grew up in Maplewood, NJ and graduated from Columbia High School (NJ) in 1944. She moved to Bethel, Maine in 1944 when her father Kimball Ames, a widower, married Ruth Carver, a widow. The Ames family had long owned property in Bethel and it was her father who eventually sold the Ames homestead on Main Street.

Mrs. Davis graduated from Wheelock College in Boston in 1949 and that same year married a Bethel man, Stanley Davis, who died in 1973. She is the mother of five children and grandmother of eleven.

A teacher in SAD #44 for twenty years, Mrs. Davis retired in 1986. She is very active in the West Parish Congregational

SOCIETY OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

Marvin Ouvinga, President; Jane Hosterman, Vice President; Kenneth Bohr, Secretary and Clerk of the Trustees; Margaret Joy Tibbetts, Treasurer; Trustees: Donald S. Brown, Margaret A. Davis, Alden T. Kennett, Mary C. Keniston, Sylvia Wight

CELEBRATION 200

Dr. Moses Mason

1789-1866

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Church where she is a member of the Bell Choir, the Chancel Choir, Women's Fellowship and serves as a Deacon. She is also affiliated with the Bethel Book Group and Delta Kappa Gamma, a professional teacher's organization. Long a guide and faithful volunteer at the Dr. Moses Mason House, she was elected a trustee at the 1989 annual meeting. Her hobbies include swimming, gardening, knitting and reading. She resides on Evergreen Road, Bethel, in the house built by her husband in 1955.

IN MEMORIAM

ERMA MARSHALL BUCKLEY, 31 December 1989, Senior Member

ANITA FERRAND, 15 September 1989, Life Member

CLIFFORD HILLER, 5 November 1989, Life Member

JEORDIE MERRILL, 30 October 1989, Sustaining Member

NOYES SHIRLEY, 19 July 1989, Contributing Member

ALICE G. TAYLOR, 18 October 1989, Senior Member

LOUIS THIBODEAU, 7 October 1989, Contributing Member

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